

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Over the past few years, the Indian Navy has been augmenting its force levels (ships and aircraft) in the A&N Islands in order to undertake surveillance/patrolling of the seas effectively. The augmentation of the force levels is expected to deter the use of these waters for gun running and other nefarious activities.

Delay in induction of Akash and Trishul Missiles System

3665. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has conveyed to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence that there would be considerable delay in the planned induction of the Akash and Trishul Missiles System;
- (b) whether there is no firm commitment yet about the probable time by when the induction would take place; and
- (c) if so, what are Government's views in this regard and the impact that this uncertainty would have on our defence preparedness?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Defence Ministry has conveyed the factual position regarding design, development and realization of state-of-the-art technologies for 'Akash' & 'Trishul' missile system to the Committee. Both systems have entered the guided flight trial phase. 'Akash' had two successful flight trials during February/March 2001. Both system are expected to be ready for induction by 2002. after user trials.

- (c) Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) and (b).